

Dvar Torah by **Rabbi Chanoch Yeres**

to his community at
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Graciously shared with PhiloTorah

Tazri'a

"On the eighth day, the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised" (12:3).

Brit Mila is performed on the eighth day; the induction of the Kohanim takes place on the eighth day; the Midrash points out that a newborn animal may only be sacrificed after its eighth day.

What is the significance of the eighth day?

The Midrash (Vayikra Rabba 27:10) explains that the Brit Mila is performed on the eighth day to ensure that the infant experiences one Shabbat before his Brit.

Rav Moshe Feinstein, in his work, Darash Moshe, continues this idea further. The Torah commanded us to allow eight days including the Shabbat to pass before bringing any sacrifice. The Shabbat is testimony that G-d created the world, therefore, the need to first experience a Shabbat is hinting to us that any sacrifice is acceptable only if the one who offers it accepts that this sacrifice belongs to G-d, the Creator. Whatever one has is from G-d.

Similarly, the sanctification of the Kohanim and the Mishkan is

contingent on the belief that He is the creator of everything. In Sh'mot 25:8, G-d first commanded the Israelites to give a gift, T'RUMA, without specifying its purpose.

It is impossible to build a Mishkan if one thinks that he is giving his own possessions as a gift to G-d. G-d does not need our gift. The Mishkan can be built only when we realize that G-d is the true owner of all our possessions. Therefore, when G-d requests that the Israelites give Him a gift, without stating its purpose, it is a clear declaration that He is the owner, and He, the owner, requests that it be returned to Him. Only through such gifts can the Mishkan be constructed.

The same applies to a Brit Mila, with which the education of a child begins. This early lesson to the son is that G-d created the world from nothing; only then, with that knowledge, can one proceed to educate the next generation. Now we may understand why the Brit Mila is performed only after the child has first experienced the Shabbat, which attests to the Creation of the world. 🏰